



# SPARK GAP

Vol. 36, Issue 2, February 2020 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-six years*

## ***On Our MARC:***

Happy Valentine's Day!!

Please mark your calendar for March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we have a date for Johnson County Storm Spotter Weather Training. It will start at 6:30pm and will be held at the Johnson County Sheriff's Department Training Facility located at 1061 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. Please take the drive from the Sheriff's Department parking lot to the east of the jail, drive through the gates and take the first left that will lead to the parking lot for the training facility. The entrance to the building is on the south side.

If you weren't at the January meeting, you missed a great presentation given by Dave Spoelstra, N9KT, from the Indianapolis Radio Club. He spoke about what antenna to use and how to use it to contact the International Space Station and the various OSCAR type satellites. If you would like to have the power point presentation that he used, please speak with Bruce as he has received copies of it from Dave.

Mark you calendar for the following meeting as we have speakers for March, April and May meetings. The March meeting will be Jim Rinehart, K9RU. He will give a presentation on test equipment for your shack. The April speaker will be our own Bob Jones, KC9NJM. He will be speaking about any new information from the Storm Spotter Training mentioned above. May will be our own Mike Turner, NV9I, talking more about antennas that he, himself, has seen or used. More like part two of the first part he did last fall.

We are still looking for people to join the PIO Team. If interested, please get with one of the officers.

With the New Year, Club dues are due. Please see Chris Mazzarella, KC9VGQ, about getting your dues current for 2020.

See you Saturday and the coffee will be on.

*Jacki-K16QOG*

President



### *Birthdays for the month of February:*

*K9DY - Steve Carmean*

*ND9C - Steve Curtis*

*N9SIU - Bob LaGrange*

*KD9LVS - Douglas Loy*

*WB9TSW - Toby Monk*

*W9OQ - Chris Read*

*K9THR - Ron Schuetz*

## **WINTER FIELD DAY 2020**

MARC participated in Winter Field Day for the first time on Saturday and Sunday, January 25 and 26. Six club members made contacts with other participating ham from across the US, Canada and DX areas. Valid contacts required an exchange of information that included call sign, the number of radios used on different frequencies or modes, and the ARRL section (Indiana).

Winter Field Day is similar to the ARRL Field Day held in June of each year. However, Winter Field Day is sponsored by an independent group known as the Winter Field Day Association (WFDA). WFDA has held this event over the last several years with the goal of promoting emergency communication during less favorable winter conditions. While many participants do operate outside (given bonus points), indoor operation is permitted. We operated this time from the club radio room.

MARC participants made a little more than 200 contacts during the 24 hour contest period. Frequently our W9MID CQ calls resulted in a pile-up of several responding hams from all across the US and Canada. Our club will be submitting its log to WFDA. While we are not likely to win any awards, a fun time was had by all who participated with the promise of even more contacts next year.

..... Bruce – K9ICP



*Chris - KQ9Y making contacts*



*Toby - WB9TSW busy*



*Mike - KD9IZY & Daughter*



*Winter Field Day 2020 cont:*



*KC9VGQ – Chris, KD9IZY – Mike & Daughter*



*K9ICP – Bruce making contacts*



*Mike's daughter has the power in her hand.*



*Wilson – KD9FBC and the rest of the gang.*



*KC9VGQ – Chris making a contact.*

*..... Pictures by Chris – KQ9Y and Bruce – K9ICP*

## Not all MARC members enjoyed the comfort of a cozy Franklin radio room for Winter Field Day.



Steve Carmean, K9DY and I decided to brave the elements and set up our Winter FD camp in the Florida Everglades. After lathering up with tropical sun tan lotion we set up on adjacent picnic tables in the Big Cypress National Preserve in the Everglades of southwest Florida. Operating temp was 75 degrees.

After getting permission from the park rangers we erected two vertical antennas in an area known for curious alligators, birds and an occasional bear or panther. We felt the power of two HF rigs would

help keep up safe.

Steve worked 40 meters CW on his Ten-Tec Scout while I worked two dozen side-band contacts on 20-meters using a Yaesu FT-991. Our rigs were powered by deep cycle batteries. To stretch the battery power through the afternoon QSO's we limited our power to 50 watts.

Our laptop computers, used for logging, lasted until wrapping up our afternoon Field Day exercise. We downed the operation just before sunset. Good thing. It very dark in the swamp and according to park rangers bears and panthers start looking for food after sunset.



*Text & photos-w8ish*

(A big crow cawing CQ on Yaeasu radio Jack and Steve lunch nearby.)



shut gets the

kept the while had

..... *Jack, W8ISH*





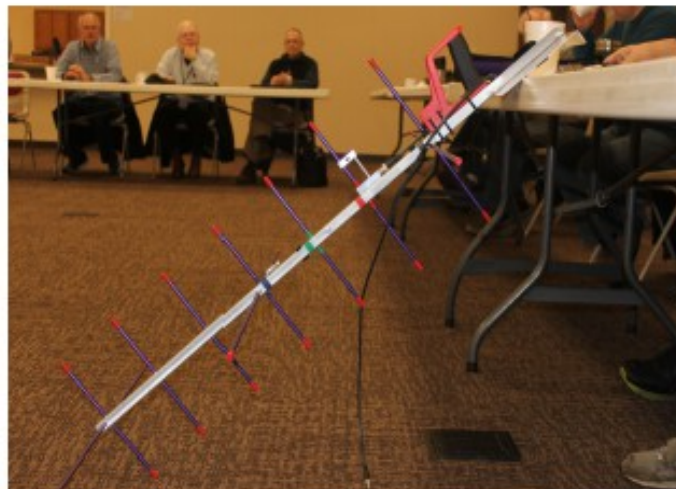


## Ham Radio Satellite Communication

Our speaker for our January meeting was Dave Sparlosa, N9KT and he shared his knowledge about satellite communication. Dave had a very good presentation of how you can use the many amateur radio satellites that are in orbit around the earth. I was surprised how simple it was to make a contact and that the HT dual band radio you already have can be used. The antennas used are somewhat specialized to get your radio signal through the earth's atmosphere and make a good contact with the satellites. There are many websites that have information on tracking the satellites and equipment. Dave also mentioned about smart phone apps that are available that can let you know when they are overhead. Once you have established contact with the satellite they are there only for a few minutes before they are out of range. Dave did put emphasis that the equipment is not costly for most amateurs and if you have a dual band HT you are half way to using the satellites. You can even use a long range HT antenna with some gain on your signal and make a satellite contact. It does sound like fun and I look forward to trying this aspect of our hobby myself, when the weather gets a bit warmer.

..... Bob, N9SIU Pictures by Chris KQ9Y





## NEWS from ARRL:

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB003

ARLB003 ARRL to Argue for Continued Access to 3-GHz Spectrum as FCC Sets Comment Deadlines

ZCZC AG03

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT January 24, 2020

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB003

ARLB003 ARRL to Argue for Continued Access to 3-GHz Spectrum as FCC Sets Comment Deadlines

At its January meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors instructed the League's FCC counsel to prepare a strong response to protect amateur access to spectrum in the 3 GHz range. In its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in WT Docket 19-348, the FCC proposed to relocate all non-federal operations, including amateur uses, to spectrum outside the 3.3 - 3.55 GHz band. The Commission anticipates auctioning this spectrum to expand commercial use of 5G cellular and wireless broadband services, if agreement can be reached on relocation of "or sharing with" the federal incumbents that operate in the same band. Publication of the NPRM in the Federal Register on January 22 established deadlines of February 21 for comments and March 23 for reply comments.

The FCC has requested comment on the uses radio amateurs make of the spectrum and appropriate relocation options. Complicating matters is the fact that radio amateurs must consider the possibility that the immediately adjacent 3.1 - 3.3 GHz band is included in the spectrum that Congress has identified for similar study. FCC Commissioner Michael O'Rielly, in a December statement, referenced the fact that the lower band may also be considered for non-federal reallocation, potentially limiting relocation possibilities.

Amateurs make substantial use of the 3.3 - 3.5 GHz band that would be hard to replicate elsewhere, and they have filed more than 150 comments before the designated comment period even began. Among users looking at options are those who use this spectrum for Earth-Moon-Earth (moonbounce) communication, mesh networks, experiments with communication over long distances, radiosport, and amateur television. A portion of the band also is designated for use by amateur satellites in ITU Regions 2 and 3 (the Americas and Asia/Pacific).

A report is due by March 23 from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) evaluating the feasibility of having federal users share all or part of the 3.1 - 3.55 GHz band with commercial wireless services. This report is required by the Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless (MOBILE NOW) Act. The results of the NTIA report will impact how much spectrum ultimately may be re-allocated for auction to wireless providers.



ARRL urges amateurs who comment to inform the FCC about the uses they make of the 3 GHz spectrum. Short comments and longer statements may be filed electronically. Visit the FCC "How to Comment on FCC Proceedings" page for more information. Comments should reference WT Docket 19-348.

The how-to comment page can be found at,

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/how-comment>.

NNNN  
/EX

---

ARRL Central Division  
Director: Kermit A Carlson, W9XA  
[w9xa@arrl.org](mailto:w9xa@arrl.org)

---



Something to keep you warm on a cold winter night.



"What's your  
favorite band?"

"Seventeen  
Meters."

**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY !!!**



## UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

**02/15/2020** – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

**02/29/2020** – Laporte Hamfest – Laporte, IN

**03/21/2020** – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

**04/18/2020** – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

**05/16/2020** – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

**06/20/2020** – East Central Indiana Hamfest – Randolph County Fairgrounds

If you would like to be part of Johnson County ARES please contact Bob LaGrange

[N9SIU@YAHOO.COM](mailto:N9SIU@YAHOO.COM)

**TIME TO PAY YOUR M.A.R.C. DUES FOR 2020  
SEE CHRIS - KC9VQG AT THE MEETING SATURDAY**





## MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

### W9MID Repeater:

146.835/  
146.235 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

### Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG  
Vice President: Bruce Tisdale – K9ICP  
Secretary: Chris Read – W9OQ  
Treasurer: Chris Mazzarella – KC9VGQ  
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

### W9MID Repeater:

443.525/  
448.525 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS  
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836  
Franklin, Indiana  
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

*Please send your articles to my email: [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 2nd week of the month.*



*Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.*